

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

POE NO SHOW



A marker for Edgar Allen Poe's gravesite is seen Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010 in Baltimore. A mysterious visitor who has left roses and cognac at the grave of Edgar Allan Poe each year on the writer's birthday failed to show early Tuesday, breaking with a ritual that began more than 60 years ago.

Read more on Page 5


SPORTS NEWS

AUSSIE OPEN



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after beating Russia's Igor Andreev to win their Men's singles first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday Jan. 19, 2010.

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Suddenly close race threatens national Dems

GLEN JOHNSON
LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writers
BOSTON (AP) — Voters chose a successor to the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy on Tuesday in a down-to-the-wire election that became a referendum on President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul and his first year in office.

A loss — or even a narrow victory — by once-favored Democrat Martha Coakley to insurgent Republican Scott Brown in this Democratic stronghold could signal big political problems for the president's party this fall when House of Representatives, Senate and gubernatorial candidates are on the ballot nationwide.

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Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate seat left empty by the death of U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., waves as she departs a campaign stop in front of the Boston Public Library, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010.

Associated Press

U.S., UN send more troops to help in Haiti

ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU
MIKE MELIA

Associated Press Writers
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — U.S. troops landed on the lawn of Haiti's shattered presidential palace to the cheers of quake victims on Tuesday, and the U.N. said it would throw more police and soldiers into the sluggish global effort to aid the devastated country. The U.N. forces are aimed at quelling the outbursts of violence that have slowed distribution of supplies, leaving many Haitians still without help a week after the magnitude-7.0 quake killed an estimated 200,000 people. Looters were rampaging through part of downtown Port-au-Prince even as the Security Council voted to add 2,000 troops to the 7,000 military peacekeepers already in the country as well as 1,500 more police to the 2,100-strong international force. Haitians jammed the fence of the palace grounds to gawk and



A U.S. Navy helicopter takes off in front of the National Palace after members of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne, front, landed in Port-au-Prince, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. U.S. Navy helicopters touched down on the grounds of Haiti's damaged presidential palace bringing reinforcements in the struggle for security and earthquake disaster relief.

Associated Press

cheer as U.S. troops emerged from six Navy helicopters.

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U.S.: differences with Japan won't hurt alliance

FOSTER KLUG

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— A senior U.S. diplomat on Tuesday played down differences between the United States and Japan over the relocation of a Marine airfield, saying the U.S.-Japan alliance will remain strong.

Speaking on the 50th anniversary of the signing of a U.S.-Japanese security pact, Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell told reporters that current tension between the countries is nothing compared to the Japanese anger over the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old girl by two Marines and a U.S. sailor.

"It's important not to over-blow these challenges that we face," Campbell said. "Our alliance is bigger than any one or two issues."

The anniversary comes as the new government of Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama balks at a 2006 agreement struck with the Bush administration to relocate the U.S. Marine airfield at Futenma to a less crowded part of the southern island of Okinawa. Some Japanese Cabinet members say they want it moved off Japanese territory entirely, a sentiment shared by many local residents.

President Barack Obama said Tuesday in a statement on the anniversary that

"America's commitment to Japan's security is unshakable, and our cooperation to meet common challenges is a critical part of our engagement with the world."

About 47,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan under the security pact. More than half are in Okinawa, where local residents have long complained about noise, pollution and crime around the bases.

Campbell, who will travel in early February to Japan and South Korea for talks, said it is natural for Japan's new government to ask detailed questions when coming into power.

In response, the Obama



U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, left, shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama prior to their meeting at Hatoyama's official residence on Friday January 15, 2010 in Tokyo, Japan. Inouye is in Japan for five days to discuss issues including Futenma Air Base relocation.

Associated Press

administration is trying to strike a balance. The White House, he said, believes that the 2006 agreement should be followed. But it wants to be flexible. "It's extremely important that we aren't intransigent," Campbell said.

The administration, Campbell said, believes that having American forces in

Japan is essential to keeping both Japan and Asia secure. Of special worry is North Korea, which has repeatedly threatened its southern neighbor, the United States and Japan with war. The United States, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia are working to push the North to return to stalled nuclear disarmament talks. □



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Mystery visitor to Edgar Allen Poe's grave is a no-show

BEN NUCKOLS
JOSEPH WHITE

Associated Press Writers

BALTIMORE (AP) — It is what Edgar Allan Poe might have called “a mystery all insoluble”: Every year for the past six decades, a shadowy visitor would leave roses and a half-empty bottle of cognac on Poe's grave on the anniversary of the writer's birth. This year, no one showed.

Did the mysterious “Poe toaster” meet his own mortal end? Did some kind of ghastly misfortune befall him? Will he be heard from nevermore? “I'm confused, befuddled,” said Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum. “I don't know what's going on.”

The visitor's absence this year only deepened the mystery over his identity. One name mentioned as a possibility was that of a Baltimore poet and known prankster who died in his 60s last week. But there is little or no evidence to suggest he was the man.

Poe was the American literary master of the macabre, known for poems such as “The Raven” and grisly short stories like “The Tell-Tale Heart,” “The Fall of the House of Usher” and “The Pit and the Pendulum.” He is also credited with writing the first modern detective story, “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.” He died in 1849 in Baltimore at age 40 after collapsing in a tavern.

In the history of the Poe toaster, little is certain.

The annual tribute began in 1949 — unless it started earlier, or later. The first printed reference to the tribute can be found that year in The Evening Sun of Baltimore. The newspaper mentioned “an anonymous citizen who creeps in annually to place an empty bottle (of excellent label)” against the gravestone.

Every year since 1978, Jerome has staked out the grave at the Westminster Hall and Burying Ground. Year after year, he said, he and various friends and Poe enthusiasts would watch from inside the Presbyterian church as a figure dressed in black, with a wide-brimmed hat and a white



Cynthia Pelayo, of Chicago, leaves roses and cognac at the burial site of Edgar Allen Poe Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010 in Baltimore. She left the roses and cognac after a mysterious visitor who has left roses and cognac at the grave of Edgar Allan Poe each year on the writer's birthday failed to show early Tuesday, breaking with a ritual that began more than 60 years ago.

scarf, would leave three roses and cognac and steal away.

There is an alternative tale of the toaster's origins, one that Jerome vehemently disputes. Sam Porpora, the former historian at Westminster Hall, claimed in 2007 that he was the original Poe toaster, saying he came up with the idea in the late 1960s as a publicity stunt. But the details of Porpora's story seemed to change with each telling, and he acknowledged that someone had since made the tradition his own.

In 1993, the visitor began leaving notes, starting with one that read: “The torch will be passed.” A note in 1998 indicated the originator of the tradition had died and passed it on to his two sons.

In 2001, as the Baltimore Ravens — named in honor of the bird in Poe's most famous poem — were preparing to face the New York Giants in the Super Bowl, the toaster left a note that praised the Giants and said the Ravens would suffer “a thousand injuries.” Then in 2004, amid tense relations between the United States and France over the invasion of Iraq, a note said Poe's grave was “no place for French cognac” and that the liquor was being left “with great reluctance.”

Beyond Porpora, no one ever stepped forward to take credit

for the tradition. But one name emerged Tuesday as a possible candidate: David Franks, a Baltimore poet and performance artist who died last week.

Franks was a Poe aficionado and an outrageous prankster who dressed with a “19th-century literary flair,” said Rafael Alvarez, a friend of Franks and president of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore.

Franks once photocopied his private parts on a copy machine at a federal Social Security office and put the images on display. Decades ago, he posed as a disabled poet in a wheelchair, solicited donations from the crowd, then thanked everyone and got up and walked away.

Jerome said he doubts Franks was the toaster: “I looked at some images of him, and he doesn't look at all like the person we've seen over the years.” Alvarez also said Franks wasn't a sports fan, and “his politics were more French than American.”

The toaster's annual appearance has become a pilgrimage for Poe fans, some of whom travel hundreds of miles (kilometers). About three dozen stood huddled in blankets during the overnight cold Tuesday, hoping to catch a glimpse. At 5:30 a.m. local time, Jerome emerged from

the church to announce that the toaster had not arrived.

As the longtime guardian of Poe's legacy in Baltimore and the occupant of a prime viewing spot, Jerome has often had to respond to skeptics who believe he knows the Poe toaster's true identity — or is the toaster himself.

“If I was doing it, that is fraud, pure and simple. I could lose my job,” Jerome said.

Jerome said the only thing he has kept secret is a signal — a gesture the toaster has predictably made each year at the grave — that even now he is not willing to reveal.

As for why the visitor didn't show this year, “you've got so many possibilities,” Jerome said. “The guy had the flu, accident, too many people.” □

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NATIONAL DEMS

Continued from Front Page

More immediately at stake was a critical 60th vote for the Democrats' supermajority, which is needed to save their health care legislation and the rest of Obama's agenda. The Democrats can't afford to lose a seat because a 41st Republican in the 100-member Senate could allow the Republicans to block the president's agenda.

The election transformed reliably Democratic Massachusetts into a battleground state. One day shy of the first anniversary of Obama's swearing-in, it played out amid a backdrop of animosity and resentment from voters over persistently high unemployment, industry bailouts, exploding federal budget deficits and partisan wrangling over health care.

Even before the polls closed at 8 p.m. EST, administration officials were privately accusing Coakley of a poorly run campaign and playing down the notion that Obama or a toxic political landscape had much to do with the outcome.

Coakley's supporters, in turn, blamed that very environment, saying her lead

dropped significantly after the Senate passed health care reform shortly before Christmas and after the Christmas Day attempted airliner bombing that Obama himself said showed a failure of his administration.

Fingerpointing began more than a week ago as polls started showing a tight race. Obama flew to Boston for last-minute personal campaigning on Sunday.

Days before the vote, White House advisers and other Democrats in Washington began making excuses for they called a poorly run campaign on Coakley's part. Obama flew to Boston for last-minute personal campaigning on Sunday.

Wall Street watched closely. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 116 points, and analysts attributed the increase to hopes the election would make it harder for Obama to make his changes to health care. That eased investor concerns that profits at companies such as insurers and drug makers would suffer.

Across Massachusetts, voters who had been bombarded with phone calls and dizzied with nonstop campaign commercials for Coakley



Massachusetts State Sen. Scott Brown, R-Wrentham, speaks to reporters after voting in the special election for the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by former Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010 in Wrentham, Mass.

Associated Press

and Brown gave a fitting turnout despite intermittent snow and rain statewide.

Boston reported twice the primary turnout among early voters.

Secretary of State William Galvin, who discounted sporadic reports of voter irregularities throughout the day, predicted turnout ranging from 1.6 million to 2.2 million, 40 percent to 55 percent of registered voters. The Dec. 8 primary had a scant turnout of about 20 percent.

National issues including

health care and the federal budget deficits were on voters' minds.

"We don't want health care just for the rich and the middle class. We need it for everyone," said Democrat Neicei Degan, 82, who voted for Coakley in hopes of saving Obama's plan that would extend coverage to millions of uninsured.

Fears about spending drove Karla Bunch, 49, to vote for Brown. "It's time for the country, for the taxpayers, to take back their money," she said. As polls opened, Brown

drove up to his polling place in the green pickup truck that came to symbolize his upstart, workmanlike campaign that in the past week pulled him into a surprise dead heat in polls.

Coakley, stunned to see a double-digit lead evaporate in recent weeks, counted on labor unions and reawakened Democrats to turn out on her behalf and preserve a seat Kennedy and his brother, President John F. Kennedy, held for over 50 years. The senator died in August of brain cancer.

With the stakes so high, Obama campaigned for Coakley in Boston over the weekend and also appeared in television ads on her behalf. "Every vote matters, every voice matters," Obama said in the ad. "We need you on Tuesday."

In Washington, senior White House adviser David Axelrod said the White House expects Coakley to win. Axelrod said Obama did everything he could to help. Obama has made overhauling the U.S. health care system, which leaves nearly 50 million people uninsured, his top domestic priority. Kennedy, a brother of late President John F. Kennedy, was a longtime champion of the cause. □



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San Diego mayor: Bias drove his gay marriage stand

By LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The mayor of San Diego testified Tuesday that he regretted opposing same-sex marriage before learning his daughter was a lesbian in a committed relationship.

Mayor Jerry Sanders said his change of heart was a defining personal moment. "I had been prejudiced," he said during a civil trial on the constitutionality of California's ban on gay marriage. "I was saying one group of people did not deserve the same respect, did not deserve the same symbolism of marriage, and I was saying their marriages were less important than those of heterosexuals."

Sanders, a Republican, took the witness stand on behalf of two same-sex couples suing to overturn Proposition 8, the state's voter-approved ban.

Sanders recounted his last-minute decision in 2008 to sign a City Council resolution backing efforts to legalize same-sex marriage. The decision contradicted his public pledge to veto the resolution.

He was shown a videotape of the news conference where he broke down in tears while announcing the reasons for changing his mind.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera, who questioned Sanders, asked why he was so emotional on the video.

"I came very close to showing the prejudice I obviously had toward my daughter to my staff and to the people of San Diego,"

said Sanders, who choked up again recalling the episode. Sanders now believes it's in the interest of government to support same-sex marriage. A former police chief, he cited examples of hate crimes against gays and of police officers being afraid to acknowledge they are gay. "If government tolerates discrimination against anyone, it is very easy for citizens to do the same thing," he said.

Brian Raum, a lawyer for Proposition 8 sponsors, cross-examined the mayor about his past support for civil unions as an alternative to marriage.

Throughout the trial, backers of the ban have tried to show the ballot measure was not motivated by deep-seated bias toward gays. Such "animus" would make it more difficult for the measure to pass constitutional muster. "You don't believe that you communicated hatred to the gay and lesbian community, did you?" Raum asked.

"I feel like my thoughts were grounded in prejudice, but I don't feel like I communicated hatred," Sanders said.

Raum also played a commercial produced by the Proposition 8 campaign claiming supporters were subjected to vandalism, slurs and physical violence during the 2008 election.

"You would agree that it's wrong for people to suffer violence as a result of their political views, would you not?" Raum asked.

"I would," Sanders agreed, adding he could not verify that supporters of the ban

in San Diego experienced widespread harassment or if the ad was a campaign tactic.

Other testimony came from a University of Massachusetts at Amherst economist who said prohibiting same-sex marriages put gay couples at a financial disadvantage and would cost California \$40 million over three years in tax revenue from weddings that could not take place.

Lee Badgett, who also directs research for a gay-related think tank at the University of California, Los Angeles, added that research showed gay couples preferred marriage to taking advantage of domestic partnership laws.

"Marriage is an institution that is recognized by many other people outside the couple, so it has that social validation," Badgett said.

Charles Cooper, another lawyer for Proposition 8 backers, countered that same number of couples registered as domestic partners in 2009 as 2008, even though same-sex marriage was legal in California during a four-month window before voters approved Proposition 8 in 2008.

"Do you believe these California same-sex couples chose domestic partnership over marriage because they felt these California domestic partnerships were second-rate?" Cooper asked Badgett.

"I don't know that these same-sex couples who got married also registered as domestic partners to hedge their bets against the election," Badgett replied.



San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, center, speaks at a news conference next to his daughter Lisa in San Francisco on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. Mayor Jerry Sanders took the witness stand on behalf of two same-sex couples suing to overturn Proposition 8, California's voter-approved gay marriage ban. Lisa Sanders is married to Meaghan Yapple. At left is San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

Associated Press

Army: Family photos not basis for porn charge

By DAVID MERCER

Associated Press Writer

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — A child pornography charge and a related count filed against an Illinois Army National Guard soldier in Afghanistan do not stem from family photos of a young relative, a U.S. Army spokesman told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

But Army spokesman Master Sgt. Thomas Clementson said in an e-mail that he can't say what the charges against Specialist Billy Miller of Galesburg are based on.

"In this case however, it was important to set the record straight with regards to the photos of the (relative) being portrayed as evidence leading to child pornography charges in this case. They are not," Clementson wrote.

Miller was charged Jan. 5 with possession of child pornography and with disobeying an order prohibiting U.S. troops in Afghanistan from possessing pornography.

Miller's family previously said they believed the charges were related to photos they e-mailed him of a 4-year-old relative wearing a swimsuit. On Tuesday, they said they still don't believe Miller had child pornography on his computer.

"The Army has screwed up; the Army does not want to admit it," his mother, Terri Miller, said from her home in Galesburg. "I'm not saying there wasn't adult porn; he's a 24-year-old man. I don't believe that Billy downloaded any kiddie porn."

Billy Miller declined an interview request through his parents, who talk to him regularly through Internet chats. □

Iran rejects heart of international nuclear proposal



Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki delivers a speech at a conference on the Persian Gulf, in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 18, 2010.

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA (AP) — Iran has told the head of the U.N. nuclear agency that it does not accept an international proposal committing it to quickly export most of the material it would need to make a nuclear warhead, diplomats said Tuesday.

For months, Iranian officials have used the media to criticize the plan backed by most of the world's major powers and to offer alternatives to one of its main conditions — that

the Islamic republic ship out most of its stock of enriched uranium and then wait for up to a year for its return in the form of fuel rods for its Tehran research reactor.

While critical of such statements, the United States and its allies noted that Iran had yet to respond to the International Atomic Agency regarding the plan, first drawn up in early October in a landmark meeting in Geneva between Iran and the six world powers, and then refined later that month in Vienna talks

among Iran, the U.S., Russia and France.

But Iran now also has told the IAEA — which chaired the Vienna talks — that it wants an alternative to the plan. Its version effectively rejects the key demand that it agree to a tight timetable in shipping out most of its enriched uranium supply, said the diplomats.

The talks in Vienna came up with a draft proposal that would take 70 percent of Iran's low-enriched uranium to reduce its stockpile of material that could be enriched to a higher level, and possibly be used to make nuclear weapons.

That uranium would be returned about a year later as refined fuel rods, which can power reactors but cannot be readily turned into weapons-grade material. Iran maintains its nuclear program is only for the peaceful purpose of generating energy.

The Geneva talks grouped the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany around the negotiating table with Iran. Diplomats from three of those big powers said Tuesday that Iran's counterproposal to the IAEA was essentially a rehash of an already publicly floated offer that fell far short of the six nations' expectations.

In a Jan. 6 meeting with IAEA chief Yukiya Amano, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, the chief Iranian delegate to the agency, said his country would exchange enriched uranium only on domestic

soil and only simultaneously for research reactor fuel, said the diplomats, who asked for anonymity because their information was confidential. That would delay any exchange for at least a year or so — the time needed to make the rods for the Tehran reactor. And that, in turn would give Iran time to increase its enriched uranium stockpile to a level where it would still have enough to make a nuclear weapon even if it exported the 1.2 tons (1,100 kilograms) specified in the original draft agreement.

In addition, the Iranian counterproposal calls for exchanges in several tranches, said the diplomats. That, too, runs counter to the Western wish that Iran ship out most of its present accumulation of enriched uranium in one batch and thereby leave it with not enough to make a weapon.

"I'm not sure that they've delivered a formal response, but it is clearly an inadequate response," U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters in Washington.

Repeated calls to the cell-phone number of Soltanieh, the Iranian chief IAEA delegate, were not answered Tuesday.

Around 2,200 pounds of low-enriched uranium are needed to produce enough weapons-grade uranium for a single nuclear warhead, according to experts. Iran is believed to

have well over that amount in its stockpiles and its thousands of centrifuges churn out new material by the day.

Iran points to nuclear deals with Western companies and governments that were put on ice after the Islamic Revolution overthrew the previous regime three decades ago in arguing it cannot trust that its interlocutors will deliver the fuel rods if it agrees to export most of its enriched uranium on good faith.

It argues that its nuclear program is aimed at creating a peaceful nuclear energy network to serve its growing population. The U.S. and other nations believe Iran's nuclear program has the goal of creating atomic weapons.

The United States and its Western allies have been pushing for a fourth round of U.N. sanctions. But with Russia, and especially China, skeptical of any new U.N. penalties, they have to tread carefully to maintain six power unity on how to deal with the Islamic Republic.

A meeting Saturday of senior diplomats from the six powers focused on possible new sanctions but participants said it reached no agreement.

"I don't think that we bridged the different views that the United States and others and China have about the — about the issue of sanctions," Crowley said. "These are long-standing concerns, and we'll continue to talk to China about them."

International concerns include Iran's refusal to heed U.N. Security Council demands that it freeze its enrichment program; fears that it may be hiding more nuclear facilities after its belated revelations that it was building a secret fortified enrichment plant, and its stonewalling of an IAEA probe of alleged programs geared to developing nuclear arms. □

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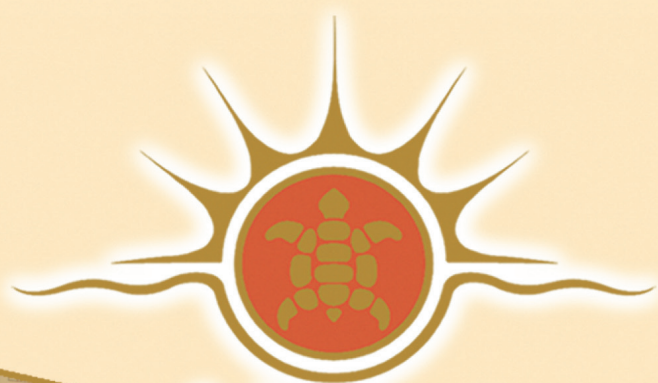
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Religious violence erupts again in central Nigeria

AHMED SAKA

Associated Press Writer

JOS, Nigeria (AP)—Religious violence between Christians and Muslims erupted again in central Nigeria, and the state government called for more military units to enter the city where rioters have killed at least 27 people.

Security forces issued a 24-hour curfew after police and soldiers tried to contain the violence Tuesday with roadblocks and searches but apparently failed. An Associated Press reporter could see smoke rising from the north side of Jos and could hear the sounds of gunshots echoing along the streets.

The rioting began Sunday after Muslim youths set a Catholic church ablaze. Witnesses said rioters armed with knives, homemade firearms and stones attacked passers-by and fought with security forces, leaving bodies in the street and stacked in local mosques.

The Minister of Police Affairs,

Ibrahim Yakubu Lame, issued a statement Tuesday blaming the violence on “some highly placed individuals in the society who were exploiting the ignorance and poverty of the people to cause mayhem in the name of religion.”

Jos, the capital of Plateau State, has a history of community violence that has made elections difficult to organize. Rioting in September 2001 killed more than 1,000 people and Muslim-Christian battles killed up to 700 people in 2004. More than 300 residents died during a similar uprising in 2008.

The city is situated in Nigeria’s “middle belt,” where dozens of ethnic groups mingle in a band of fertile and hotly contested land separating the Muslim north from the predominantly Christian south.

While religious violence does happen in Nigeria, it normally has its roots in local issues, rather than influence from international extremist

groups.

Sani Mudi, a spokesman for the local imam, said there were about two hours of fighting on Tuesday morning.

“We could hear gunshots all over the area,” said Mudi, who said he saw police moving about the area with soldiers from where he was hiding inside his home.

Mohammed Larema, a local police spokesman, said that security forces had brought the fighting to a halt and that the situation was under control.

However, the state government called for additional military units to enter the city. A major general for a Nigerian armored division toured part of Jos on Tuesday to see what would be needed.

“The situation is bad and the federal government is yet to deploy the troops requested,” said Gregory Yenlong, a state spokesman.

Mudi, the spokesman for the local imam, has said 22 people died Sunday and more than

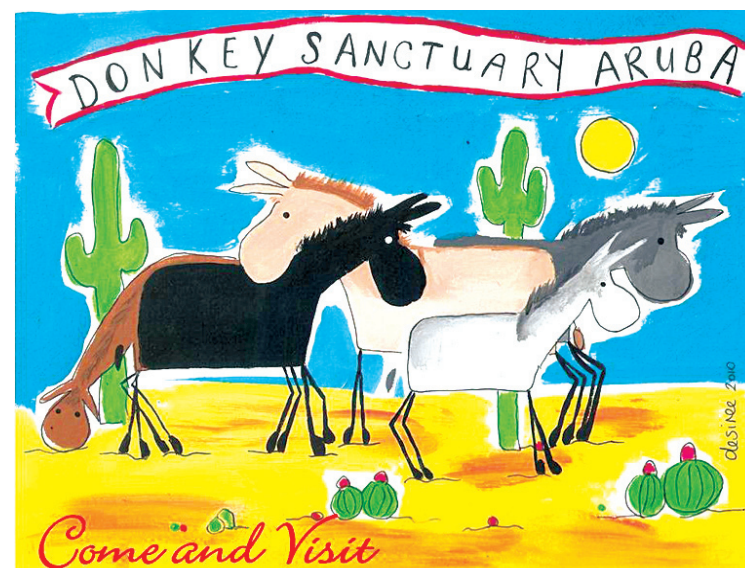


Vehicles burn on the street in Jos January 17, 2010 in this video grab obtained January 20, 2010. Nigerian Vice President Goodluck Jonathan on January 19, 2010 ordered troops to be sent into the central city of Jos to restore order after nearly 150 people were killed in three days of religious clashes.

Reuters Photo

300 people were wounded in the fighting. Five others died Monday from their wounds, Mudi said.

Local Red Cross officials have said that 5,000 people have been displaced by the rioting.



Aruba TODAY

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MORE TROOPS

Continued from Front Page

“We are happy that they are coming, because we have so many problems,” said Fede Felissaint, a hairdresser.

Given the circumstances, he did not even mind the troops taking up positions at the presidential palace. “If they want, they can stay longer than in 1915,” he said, a reference to the start of a 19-year U.S. military presence in Haiti — something U.S. officials have repeatedly insisted they have no intention of repeating.

A full week after the quake, the capital’s port remains blocked and too much aid must flow through the city’s lone, small airport. Tens of thousands of people sleep in the streets or under plastic sheets in makeshift camps. Relief workers say they fear visiting some parts of the city. Just four blocks from U.S. troop landing at the palace, hundreds of looters fought over bolts of cloth and other goods with broken bottles and clubs.

“That is how it is. There is nothing we can do,” said Haitian police officer Arina Bence, who was trying to keep civilians out of the looting zone for their own safety.

Police Chief Mario Andersol said he can muster only 2,000 officers in the capital, down from 4,500 before the quake, and they “are not trained to deal with this kind of situation.”

European Commission analysts estimate the quake injured 250,000 and made 1.5 million homeless, and many are exasperated by the delays in getting aid.

“I simply don’t understand what is taking the foreigners so long,” said Raymond Saintfort, a pharmacist who brought two suitcases of aspirin and antiseptics to survivors in the ruins of a nursing home.

Aid workers have distributed more than 250,000 daily food rations, with about half coming from the U.S. military, according to the World Food Program. But that is still far short of the need, and the U.N. agency managed to feed only half the 100,000 people it planned to reach on Monday. It said security forces were not available to escort its trucks and some military staff were injured while retrieving food from a badly damaged warehouse.

U.S. military efforts to speed aid through Port-au-Prince’s airport appeared to be paying off after days of complaints



In this photo released by MINUSTAH, Peruvian UN peacekeepers secure the entrance of an industrial area during a distribution of food by humanitarian workers from Dominican Republic in Port-au-Prince, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. The U.N. Security Council has unanimously approved extra troops and police officers to beef up security in Haiti and ensure that desperately needed aid gets to earthquake victims. A 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on Jan. 12.

Associated Press

by frustrated aid agencies: Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser, head of U.S. Southern Command, the airport that handled just 30 flights a day before it was damaged in the quake is now handling 180 a day.

“We’re doing everything in our power to speed aid to Haiti as fast as humanly possible,” he said.

But the international aid group Doctors Without Borders complained that U.S. controllers have turned away a planeload of medical equipment three times since Sunday despite assurances it could land.

“We have had five patients in Martissant health center die for lack of the medical supplies that this plane was carrying,” said Loris de Filippi, emergency coordinator the group’s hospital in Cite Soleil.

The group said five other of its planes have been able to land. The Pentagon, meanwhile, said it is preparing two other airfields for aid flights, one in the Haitian town of Jacmel and another in the Dominican Republic. Meanwhile, rescuers continued finding survivors.

A Mexican rescue team created after that nation’s 1985 earthquake rescued an elderly Haitian woman who had survived a week buried in the ruins of the residence

of Haiti’s Roman Catholic archbishop, who died.

Other teams pulled two Haitian women from a collapsed university building as one of the victim’s sisters shouted praises to God.

In the city’s Bourdon area, French, Dominican and Panamanian rescuers using high-tech detection equipment said they heard heartbeats underneath the rubble of a bank building. The husband of a missing woman watched from a crowd of onlookers. “I’m going to be here until I find my wife; I’ll keep it up until I find her, dead or alive,” said Witchar Longfosse.

In New York, the U.N.’s most powerful body voted unanimously to bolster the international peacekeeping corps already in Haiti.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Alain Le Roy said the extra soldiers are essential to protect humanitarian convoys and as a reserve force if security deteriorates further.

The Pentagon announced that the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, had established a beachhead west of Port-au-Prince and it expected 800 of the 2,200 Marines in the unit to move ashore Tuesday. U.S. troop strength is rising to about 11,000, part onshore and part on ship.

Canada also has about 2,000 soldiers, sailors and air crew,

including two warships, deploying to the towns of Jacmel and Leogane, southwest of the capital, and Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Canada is ready to send more.

Italy, Spain and Venezuela say they, too, are sending naval ships to help.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Monday the U.S. troops plan to leave policing to the United Nations force, though he said they can defend themselves and innocent Haitians or foreigners if lawlessness boils over.

Still, some quickly found themselves doing a little policing: Troops of the 82nd Airborne stood guard outside the General Hospital because the crowd had grown so large that it was hindering the work of doctors trying to save lives. Some neighborhoods are creating their own security forces, forming night brigades and machete-armed mobs to fight bandits.

“We never count on the government here, never,” said 29-year-old Tatony Vieux in a hillside district where people used cars to block access to their street.

In the sprawling Cite Soleil slum, gangsters are reassuming control after escaping from the city’s notorious main penitentiary and police urge citizens to take justice into their own hands. □

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Egypt announces find of ancient cat goddess temple

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press Writer
CAIRO (AP) — Archaeologists have unearthed a 2,000-year-old temple that may have been dedicated to the ancient Egyptian cat goddess, Bastet, the Supreme Council of Antiquities said Tuesday. The ruins of the Ptolemaic-era temple were discovered by Egyptian archaeologists in the heart of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C. The city was the seat of the Greek-speaking Ptolemaic Dynasty, which ruled over Egypt for 300 years until the suicide of Queen Cleopatra. The statement said the temple was thought to belong to Queen Berenice, wife of King Ptolemy III who ruled Egypt in the 3rd century B.C. Mohammed Abdel-Maqsood, the Egyptian archaeologist who led the

excavation team, said the discovery may be the first trace of the long-sought location of Alexandria's royal quarter. The large number of statues depicting Bastet found in the ruins, he said, suggested that this may be the first Ptolemaic-era temple dedicated to the cat goddess to be discovered in Alexandria. This would indicate that the worship of the ancient Egyptian cat-goddess continued during the later, Greek-influenced, Ptolemaic period, he said. Statues of other ancient Egyptian deities were also found in the ruins, he added. Zahi Hawass, Egypt's chief archaeologist, said the temple may have been used in later times as a quarry as evidenced by the large number of missing stone blocks. Modern Alexandria was built squarely on top of the ruins of the classical-era city and many of its great



This undated photo released Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, by Egypt's supreme council of antiquities shows the ancient cat-goddess Bastet found amongst the temple's ruins in the Kom el-Dekkah area of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria. Egypt says its archaeologists have unearthed a Ptolemaic temple dating back more than 2,000 years and which may have been dedicated to the ancient cat-goddess Bastet.

Associated Press

temples, palaces and libraries in the Kom el-Dekkah neighborhood near the city's main train station and home to a Roman-era amphitheater and well preserved mosaics.

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'Spenser' novelist Robert Parker dies at age 77

By MARK PRATT,

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — Robert B. Parker, the blunt and beloved crime novelist who helped revive and modernize the hard-boiled genre and branded a tough guy of his own through his "Spenser" series, has died. He was 77.

The cause of death was unclear. An ambulance was sent to Parker's home in Cambridge on Monday morning after reports of a sudden death, said Alexa Manocchio, spokeswoman for the Cambridge police department.

Parker's longtime agent, Helen Brant, said that the author's widow, Joan, called her Monday right after finding him dead at his desk.

"They had had breakfast together Monday, and he was perfectly fine," Brant said. "She went out to do her running and when she came back about an hour later, he was dead. We were in a complete state of shock and still cannot quite believe it."

Prolific to the end, Parker wrote more than 50 novels, including 37 featuring Boston private eye Spenser. The character's first name was a mystery, with his last name emphatically spelled with an "s" in the middle, not a "c."

The character was the basis for the 1980s TV series "Spenser: For Hire," starring Robert Urich. Parker later said the only thing he liked about the program was the residual checks.

Parker admired Raymond Chandler and other classic crime writers and helped bring back their cool, clipped style in the first "Spenser" novel, "The Godwulf Manuscript," from 1973. Within a few years, with "Looking for Rachel Wallace" and "Early Autumn," he was acclaimed as a master in his own right.

"Hard-boiled detective fiction was essentially dead in the early '70s. It was considered almost a museum thing," said Ace Atkins, author of "Devil's Garden," "Wicked City" and several other novels. "When Parker brought out Spenser, it reinvigorated the genre. ... I wouldn't have a job now without Robert Parker."

Robert Crais, known for his Elvis Cole/Joe Pike novels, said Parker "opened the doors for everyone who came after."

"For a long time, the American detective genre was defined by the big three: Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler and Ross Macdonald. I would say Robert Parker is the fourth," Crais said.

Parker also was known for his Sunny Randall and Jesse Stone series.

His other books included a novel inspired by the life of Jackie Robinson, "Double Play"; the Westerns "Appaloosa," "Resolution" and "Brimstone"; and "Perchance to Dream," a sequel to Chandler's "The Big Sleep."

Parker won two Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America and a Grand Master Edgar in 2002 for lifetime achievement. A new Jesse Stone novel, "Split Image," is scheduled to come out next month, and several other books, including some Spenser novels, are "in the pipeline," according to Chris Pepe, his editor at G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin



FILE - In this Jan. 30, 2006 file photo, author Robert Parker poses in his office in Cambridge, Mass. The author of the popular Spenser private eye books about a hard-nosed Boston private investigator, died Monday, Jan. 18, 2010 in Cambridge. He was 77.

(AP Photo/Chitose Suzuki, File)

Group.

In a 1996 interview with The Associated Press, Parker noted several similarities between himself and Spenser. They both appreciated good food; Spenser dined at some of Parker's favorite restaurants. Both liked baseball and jazz. Both were veterans of the Korean War. Both could throw a punch — or least had the desire.

"He does a great many things I don't believe," Parker said. "I don't know if he's more violent than I am. But he's more willing to enact it than I am. Let's just say we're not dissimilar." A native of Springfield, Mass., Parker studied as an undergraduate at Colby College and received a Ph.D. in English from Boston University, where his dissertation was on Hammett and Chandler, whom he made no secret of imitating. He was teaching

at Northeastern University when he created Spenser, observing later that he was inspired in part because Chandler was dead and he missed his famous detective, Philip Marlowe.

Admirers credit Parker with not only honoring the hard-boiled style, but also with updating it. Unlike Marlowe and other classic characters, Spenser was not a confirmed loner, but in a solid relationship. Parker's stories also included blacks, Latinos and gays.

"He opened the door to women as readers of hard-boiled detective fiction," Crais said. "He set the stage and made a ready-made audience for authors like Sue Grafton and Sara Paretsky."

Brant, Parker's agent, said that a private ceremony will take place this week, and that a public memorial is planned for mid-February in Boston. □



FILE - In this Oct. 13, 2008 file photo, actor Dennis Hopper, right, and his wife, Victoria Duffy, are shown after Hopper was awarded the 'Commander in France's National Order Of Arts and Letters' in Paris.

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon, file)

Dennis Hopper, battling cancer, files for divorce

LOS ANGELES — Dennis Hopper, battling prostate cancer, wants out of his marriage.

The 73-year-old actor-director filed for divorce Thursday in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences with Victoria Duffy, his wife of nearly 14 years.

Hopper has been battling prostate cancer and in October canceled all travel plans to focus on treatment.

Hopper is seeking joint custody of the couple's 6-year-old daughter and offering to pay spousal support to Duffy.

The "Easy Rider" star last year finished shooting the second season of "Crash," a TV version of the Oscar-winning 2004 film that airs on the Starz network. Hopper also has several film projects in the works.

Phone and e-mail messages left for Hopper's manager, Sam Maydew, have not been returned. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



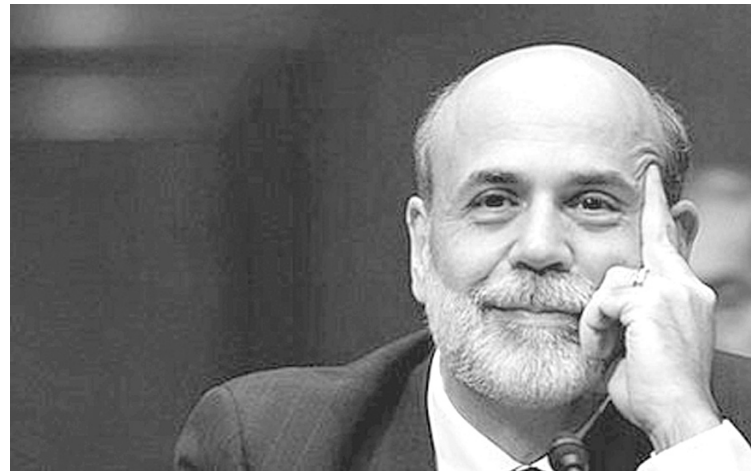
Crude settles higher as stocks climb

By MARK WILLIAMS,
AP Energy Writer

Crude oil followed the stock market to higher ground

Tuesday, settling higher for the first time in five sessions.

Investors boosted health stocks, watching a Massachusetts



Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke, seen here in 2009, said Tuesday he “would welcome” a congressional probe into the controversial government bailout of insurance giant AIG during the financial crisis.

(AFP/File/Karen Bleier)

Bernanke asks GAO to review Fed role in AIG rescue

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke took the unusual step Tuesday of asking Congress’ investigative arm to conduct a “full review” of the Fed’s role in bailing out insurance giant American International Group.

The Fed chief’s move is aimed at defusing criticism of the government’s \$182 billion rescue. The bailout sparked public outrage and demands in Congress for more information, especially after it was revealed that millions in bonuses would go to employees in the AIG division that was most responsible for the company’s need for a bailout.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has a probe under way that seeks to provide a fuller picture of the AIG bailout. Those lawmakers are especially interested in details involving AIG’s payments to Goldman Sachs and other Wall Street firms that did business with AIG. Some lawmakers wonder why the firms were fully paid and why concessions weren’t demanded.

“To provide a comprehensive response to questions that have been raised by members of Congress, the Federal Reserve would welcome a full review by GAO of all aspects of our involvement” in the AIG bailout,” Bernanke wrote in a letter to the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

Bernanke said the Fed already has provided information to Congress on the AIG rescue, has made “a large amount” of information available to the public and provided information to other oversight bodies such as the Special Inspector General for the Trouble Asset Relief Program.

Congress passed a law last year giving the GAO authority to review Fed documents in the AIG bailout. □

election to fill the seat of the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. Some hoped for a Republican victory that would make it more difficult for Senate Democrats to pass a health care bill. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up nearly 100 points in afternoon trading.

But last week’s falling oil prices started to bring down prices at the gas pump. Gasoline prices fell for the fourth straight day, though the declines have been modest so far.

Prices of \$2.74 per gallon Tuesday were less than 2 pennies under the 15-month peak of \$2.7543 hit on Thursday, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

Prices still are up 15 cents in the past month and 89.8 cents from a year ago, as motorists dig deeper into their wallets to pay for fuel just as Christmas bills start to come in.

The Energy Information Administration will release

average gas prices for the nation later Tuesday.

A typical motorist using about 50 gallons a month is paying about \$140 for gasoline, \$45 more a month than a year ago.

Gasoline prices have spiked in the past month on a jump in oil prices.

Analyst Tom Kloza said to look for larger declines in gasoline prices over the next few weeks. January and February are typically a period of poor demand for transportation fuels.

Benchmark crude for February delivery rose \$1.02 to settle at \$79.02 Tuesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In other Nymex trading in February contracts, heating oil fell 0.06 cent to settle at \$2.0454 a gallon, while gasoline added 1.37 cents to settle at \$2.0591 a gallon. Natural gas futures shed 13.4 cents to settle at \$5.557 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude for



FILE- In this photograph taken on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, a flex rig towers over the floor of a well during a tour of facilities of natural gas producer Williams in Rulison, Colo. Williams Cos. said Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, it will create one of the largest natural gas partnerships in the nation by combining pipeline and processing units.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski, file)

March delivery rose 53 cents to settle at \$77.63 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. □

Energy efficiency can mean lower taxes

By CAROLE FELDMAN,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Making energy efficient improvements to your home will do more than reduce your energy costs — they’ll also reduce your tax bill. The tax credit for energy-efficient windows or doors, air conditioners or furnaces, or other energy-saving improvements disappeared in 2008, but returned for 2009 and 2010 — at an even higher value. This is one case where procrastination paid off. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, homeowners who made the improvements are eligible for a credit equal to 30 percent of the cost, up to a maximum credit of \$1,500.

To get the maximum credit, a taxpayer would have to pay \$5,000 on energy efficiency improvements. The previous maximum had been \$500. The good news for homeowners is that they can claim the new credit even if they had taken the old one.

“You get a clean start with this one,” said Mark Luscombe, principal analyst for CCH’s tax and accounting group. To qualify, the improvements

must have been made during 2009 — or 2010 if you’re going to claim them the following year. There is no income limit for the credit, and limits on individual items are gone. That means, for example, you can claim the full credit for windows, Luscombe said.

But there’s a catch. “Homeowners should be aware that the standards in the new law are higher than the standards for the credit that was available in 2007,” the Internal Revenue Service said. The IRS cautioned that not all products that carry the Energy Department’s Energy Star label qualify.

So how do you know if the furnace or hot water heater you purchased is eligible?

It’s up to the manufacturer to certify that the product qualifies. The IRS recommends that taxpayers keep a copy of the certification statement.

Homeowners who choose alternative energy could be in for a bigger tax credit.

There’s a 30 percent tax credit with no maximum for homeowners who install solar water heaters, geothermal heat pumps or small wind turbines. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NFL: 53 non-seniors apply for draft

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK — The expected heavy influx of non-seniors applying for this year's NFL draft did not happen despite looming labor unrest in the league. Although a record-tying 53 players declared for early entry, that number released Tuesday by the NFL was short of most projections.

"I think that the colleges have really done a good job of telling these young men how it is to their advantage to stay in school," said NFL draft consultant Gil Brandt, who helped build the Dallas Cowboys in the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

"I thought there would be more and I was surprised."

Continued on Page 14

UConn coach Calhoun taking medical leave

By PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut men's basketball coach Jim Calhoun took a leave of absence Tuesday to deal with undisclosed medical issues.

The school did not give additional details on the 67-year-old Hall of Fame coach's condition. He had his prostate cancer in 2003 and skin cancer twice, most recently in 2008.

Dr. Peter Schulman, Calhoun's primary-care physician, said in a statement he advised Calhoun to take time off "to address some temporary medical issues, none of which involve any previous medical conditions that he has dealt with."

Associate head coach George Blaney will run the Huskies (11-6) in Calhoun's absence.

"Our primary concern is coach Calhoun's health and his complete recovery," UConn athletic director Jeff Hathaway said. "We will do everything possible to support Coach during this time."

Calhoun has won two national championships at Connecticut. He led the Huskies to the Final Four last season, but missed the Huskies' first NCAA tournament game in March after being hospitalized for dehydration.

Last June, he was hospitalized after breaking several ribs during a charity bike ride.



In this Oct. 10, 2009, file photo, Tennessee's Eric Berry (14) returns a fumble as he gets away from Georgia's Michael Moore (82) and Eric Elliot (30) during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Knoxville, Tenn. All-American defensive back Eric Berry of Tennessee is among a record-tying 53 non-seniors eligible for this year's NFL draft. The list was released by the league Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010.

Associated Press



Connecticut head coach Jim Calhoun looks on during the first half of an NCAA basketball game against Georgetown on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010, in Washington. Georgetown defeated Connecticut 72-69.

Associated Press

Calhoun was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005 and has a career record of 816-348.

Several other off-the-court issues had prompted questions about Calhoun's future, including an investigation into UConn's recruitment of former player Nate Miles. Calhoun has acknowledged that he or his staff may have made mistakes in recruiting Miles.

Last month, Calhoun said a new multiyear contract with the school was "just on the horizon." He is making \$1.6 million in the final year of a six-year deal. □

At least 30 Haiti FF members died in quake

DIONISIO SOLDEVILA

Associated Press Writer

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)

— At least 30 members of the Haitian Football Federation died in last week's earthquake, Caribbean football officials said on Tuesday.

In a report to world governing body FIFA, the Caribbean Football Union said the dead included players, referees, coaches, and administration and medical officials. Officials were holding a meeting at federation headquarters when it collapsed.

The report said federation president Yves Jean Bart survived the quake.

Horace Burrell of Jamaica, vice president of the CFU, visited Haiti over the weekend. He said Bart told him that at least 30 federation members had died, and 20 more were still buried in the rubble or unaccounted for.

It was not clear how many players were in the building when it collapsed.

"Words cannot describe what I have seen in Haiti. It is heartbreaking," Burrell said in his report to FIFA vice president Jack Warner, who also heads CONCACAF.

Burrell said he met Bart at the airport.

"His injuries and bandages remain stark reminders of his narrow escape from the crumbling building," Burrell said.

Warner said FIFA would donate \$250,000 to relief efforts, FIFA vice president Chung Moon-jung was personally donating \$500,000, and Warner said he would contribute \$100,000.

Luis Mejia, the president of the Dominican Olympic committee, said he was told by his Haitian counterpart, Jean Edward Baker, that at least seven Haitian Olympic athletes died in the quake. □

Lincecum seeks record \$13 million in arbitration

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO – Two-time NL Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum asked for a record \$13 million in salary arbitration on Tuesday, while the San Francisco Giants offered their ace \$8 million. Lincecum is seeking the richest contract ever awarded in arbitration, surpassing the \$10 million that Alfonso Soriano (2006) and Francisco Rodriguez (2008) got after losing cases and Ryan Howard got after winning his in 2008. If Lincecum and the Giants don't settle, an arbitration panel will hold a hearing next month and pick one of the salaries.

Lincecum's case is an interesting test because few players have entered salary arbitration with credentials similar to his. Called up early in the 2007 season, the right-hander has a 40-17 record with a 2.90 ERA.

He won the Cy Young in his first two full seasons, becoming the first repeat winner since Randy Johnson from 1999-2002. Lincecum was a bargain for the Giants last year, when he made \$650,000.

He had no negotiating leverage then, but is guaranteed to increase his salary by more than twelvefold even if he loses his case because he is eligible for arbitration as a so-called "Super 2" — a player in

the top 17 percent of service time between two and three seasons.

Lincecum's case could be most similar to Howard, who won a \$10 million award in his first time in arbitration in 2008. Howard won the NL MVP in 2006 when he led the league with 58 home runs and followed that with 47 homers in 2007. The Phillies offered \$7 million, while Howard won with his \$10 million request. Lincecum, nicknamed "The Freak" for his giant stride and slender body, has been the NL's most dominant pitcher almost from his arrival. He has a 33-12 record with a 2.55 ERA the past two seasons, leading the league in strikeouts both



In this Sept. 20, 2009, file photo, San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Lincecum throws to the Los Angeles Dodgers' in the first inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

Jim Brown wants LeBron to remain in Cleveland

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND – The most famous football player in Cleveland history hopes the city's most celebrated basketball star stays put.

Browns Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown said Tuesday night that he hopes LeBron James remains with the Cavaliers.

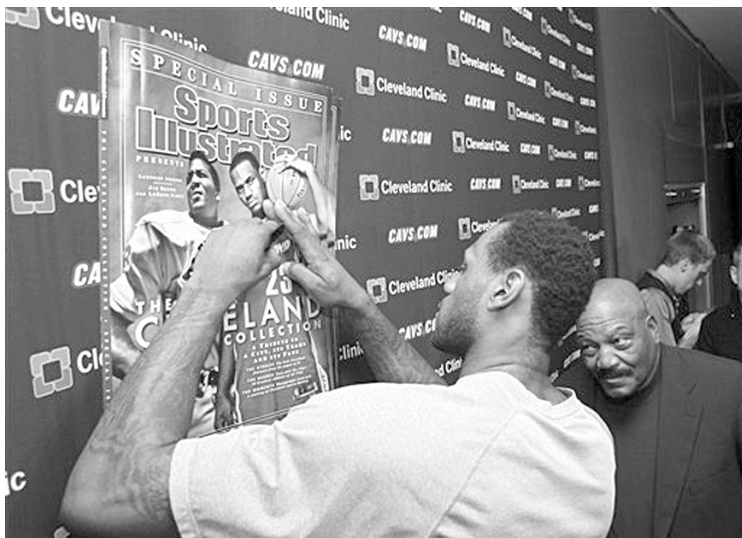
James, the NBA's reigning MVP, can leave Cleveland as a free agent after this season. He has never indicated he will sign elsewhere, but speculation has centered on him signing in a new, long-term contract in a larger market.

Brown, who played his entire NFL career in Cleveland, would like to see James do the same.

"Looking at the fact that it is a business, I put that first," Brown said. "But having said that, I would love to see him be here. I think it's a terrific marriage."

He does so much for this city and I think he has an owner (Dan Gilbert) that tries to do everything he can. When you have an owner who is trying to do the best he can do and a player, it's a terrific set of circumstances. But the business is the business."

James and Brown met with



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, signs a copy of a Sports Illustrated cover as former Cleveland Browns football player Jim Brown looks on before an NBA basketball game between the Cavaliers and the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, in Cleveland. The cover featured both James and Brown for the "Lakeside Legends" issue.

Associated Press

the media before Tuesday night's game against the Toronto Raptors. They were brought together as part of the Cavaliers' celebration of black heritage month. Brown was honored during halftime ceremonies along with former Ohio State football star Cris Carter, Buckeyes basketball great Jim Jackson and former Cleveland Indians pitcher Jim "Mudcat" Grant.

James seemed genuinely awed to be in Brown's company.

"Anytime you can be mentioned with a great and be able to continue the legacy

he built here in Cleveland, is humbling for me," James said. "We both know how much the fans love sports and I have had to learn to keep the momentum going after he passed the torch."

Brown praised James for helping give opportunities to others and for making the most of the chances he has received.

"What Dr. King worked for was to give young men like him an opportunity and when you get an opportunity you can't squander that," Brown said. □

years. He has 526 strikeouts during that span, averaging 10.5 per nine innings.

Lincecum also leads the majors in ERA, batting average against (.214), winning percentage (.733) and strikeouts over the past two seasons.

Earlier on Tuesday, Lincecum agreed to pay \$513 to resolve marijuana charges against him in Washington state.

He originally faced two misdemeanor charges

of marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession stemming from a traffic stop on Oct. 30. The charges were reduced to a civil infraction. Lincecum appeared in Clark County District Court before Judge Darvin Zimmerman on Tuesday morning. Giants managing partner Bill Neukom was in court in a sign of support for Lincecum.

He paid a speeding ticket separately. □

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Chan Gailey speaks after being introduced as the Buffalo Bills new head coach during an NFL football news conference in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010.

JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, New York (AP) — Chan Gailey was hired by the Buffalo Bills on Tuesday, receiving a second chance to prove himself as an NFL coach and inheriting a team that has missed the playoffs for 10 straight years.

Associated Press

Gailey was introduced by general manager Buddy Nix at a new conference which ended a two-month search to replace Dick Jauron, who was fired in November. Gailey takes over a team that finished 6-10 and becomes the Bills' fifth coach since Marv Levy retired after the 1997 season.

Bills hire Chan Gailey as head coach

Gailey has spent 15 of his 38 years of coaching in the NFL. In his two years coaching the Dallas Cowboys, he went 18-14 and led the team to consecutive playoff appearances — both losses. He was dismissed after the 1999 season, and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has acknowledged his mistake in firing Gailey.

The 58-year-old Gailey acknowledged he didn't know if he'd get another opportunity to be a head coach again.

"If you sit there and say you lose confidence in yourself, no you don't. But then you see opportunities go by. And you hope that your body of work will speak for itself," Gailey said.

He has been out of American football since he was removed as the Kansas City Chiefs' offensive coordinator in August, two weeks before the

season opener. He was entering his second season with Kansas City after a six-year period as Georgia Tech's coach, during which he went 44-33 before being fired in 2007.

With Buffalo, Gailey's top priority will be sparking an offense that has finished 25th or worst in yards gained in each of the past seven seasons.

Finding a franchise quarterback would help, too. A combination of injuries and futility led to the Bills to go through three starters this past year. The team has not had a starting quarterback stay for more than three years since Hall of Famer Jim Kelly retired following the 1996 season. □

DRAFT

Continued from Page 12

Six All-Americans did apply for the draft: defensive backs Eric Berry of Tennessee and Joe Haden of Florida; defensive end Derrick Morgan of Georgia Tech; tight end Aaron Hernandez of Florida; linebacker Rolando McClain of Alabama; and wide receiver Golden Tate of Notre Dame.

Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, the 2008 Heisman Trophy winner, also declared for April's draft, along with Mississippi quarterback Jevan Snead; Notre Dame quarterback Jimmy Clausen; Southern California running back Joe McKnight; Cal running back Jahvid Best; Florida defensive end Carlos Dunlap; and Penn State linebacker Navorro Bowman.

Fresno State tailback Ryan Mathews, the nation's leading rusher, applied. So did tackles Bryan Bulaga of Iowa and Anthony Davis of Rutgers, who are projected to go high in the draft.

The 53 players match the previous high in 2008; last year, 46 declared.

"I think this is a normal amount of players that applied," player agent Peter Schaffer said. "I think a lot of players made informed and educated decisions. There still will be some players who made mistake and stayed or who made a mistake and came out."

"I still think at the end of the day, given the uncertain nature of the NFL in terms of non-guaranteed contracts after the first round of the draft, the foundation of education and development of a player in college is better for the long-term success of the player."

With the NFL and the players union in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement and the potential for a rookie wage scale being implemented, more juniors were expected to declare for this year's draft.

"I tell a lot of them that it's short-term gain for long-term loss if you come out early," Brandt said. "I look at so many of these guys who stay and then wind up like Brian Cushing and Michael Oher, and look at the great rookie years they had." □

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Australian Open

Federer leaves Rod Laver Arena in a better place

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The last time Roger Federer played at Rod Laver Arena, he left in tears after losing the Australian Open final to Rafael Nadal a year ago. There were no such waterworks on Tuesday, just a few tense moments for the Swiss star seeking his 16th Grand Slam title in a 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-0 first-round win over Igor Andreev of Russia. Federer lost the first set after leading by a break, then saved three set points in the 12th game of third set before winning the tiebreaker and totally dominating the fourth set.

It was a far cry from last year, when, with Rod Laver himself about to present the trophy, Federer shed tears after having missed his first chance to equal Pete Sampras' 14 Grand Slam titles — a feat he later achieved and then surpassed with wins at the French Open and Wimbledon. "It's killing me maybe I'll try later," Federer said last January when he was not able to speak initially at the trophy presentations.

On Tuesday, Federer was all smiles at the courtside television interview with two-time Australian Open champion and now commentator Jim Courier, who reminded Federer that he had not lost a set in the first round of a major in more than six years — not since the 2003 French Open, the event before he won Wimbledon for his first Grand Slam title.

"I did know it was going to be tough, we played five sets in New York two years back and I really had to adjust my game to beat him," Federer said of Andreev. "I think I definitely got lucky to get out of that one. It was a fortunate third set today. I prefer easier matches, but this worked as well."

Top-ranked Serena Williams, the defending women's champion, had an easy first-rounder, beating Urszula Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 6-1. Her sister, sixth-seeded Venus, also advanced easily,



Defending women's champion Serena Williams, left, of the United States returns the ball to Poland's Urszula Radwanska during their first round singles match; and Roger Federer, right, of Switzerland returns to Russia's Igor Andreev during their Men's singles first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday Jan. 19, 2010.



beating Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-2.

Third-seeded Novak Djokovic beat Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 in a night match. Djokovic won his first and only Grand Slam at the 2008 Australian Open, losing only one set during the two-week tournament and beat Roger Federer in the semifinals.

Hometown favorite Lleyton Hewitt, still trying to win his first Australian Open after losing in the 2005 final to Marat Safin, opened with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 win over qualifier Ricardo Hocevar of Brazil.

Serena Williams' record in the first round of the Slams is even more impressive than Federer's — she has never lost an opener.

"I was a little nervous today because that's always on the back of my mind," Williams said. "Records are meant to be broken. This one means a lot to me ... just to have an opportunity to have not lost yet in the first round of a Grand Slam — knock on wood — is really good for me."

Williams' demeanor was also far different than her last Grand Slam appearance at last year's U.S. Open. There, an outburst against a line judge who called her for a foot fault cost Williams the match, a

record fine of \$82,500 and a suspended ban which means she'll miss a U.S. Open if she has another such outburst at any Grand Slam event in the next two years.

"I always said what I did wasn't right ... I don't know whoever got fined like that. People said worse, done worse. I just thought it was a bit much."

The 28-year-old American hurt her left knee at the Sydney International last Friday night and later said she has been bothered by a foot problem. She played with her right thigh heavily wrapped with a white bandage Tuesday, but said it was more for a precaution.

Williams' win in 73 minutes contrasted to what the WTA Tour said was a record for the longest women's match at a major in the Open era. Barbora Zahlavova Strycova of the Czech Republic needed 4 hours, 19 minutes to beat Russia's Regina Kulikova 7-6 (5), 6-7 (10), 6-3.

Elsewhere, No. 8 Jelena Jankovic, No. 11 Marion Bartoli, No. 13 Sam Stosur and No. 19 Nadia Petrova advanced along with No. 26 Aravane Rezai, who beat India's Sania Mirza 6-4, 6-2. No. 18 Virginie Razzano lost 6-2, 6-3 to Russia's Ekaterina Makarova and American Vania

Tsonga, No. 12 Gael Monfils of France, No. 19 Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland and No. 21 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic all advanced. Americans James Blake and John Isner reached the second round, but No. 25 Sam Querrey lost to German veteran Rainer Schuettler. Blake had a 7-5, 7-5, 6-2 win over Frenchman Arnaud Clement, while Isner held off Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 5-7, 6-4. Fabrice Santoro extended his Grand Slam career into a fourth decade, but he lasted only one match — a 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 loss to 14th-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia.

The 37-year-old Frenchman, who started his Grand Slam career at the 1989 French Open, retired last season but returned to Melbourne Park for a record 70th major.

Richard Gasquet, competing in his third tournament since a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport allowed him to return to playing, was beaten by 20th-seeded Mikhail Youzhny 6-7 (9), 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4), 6-4 in a night match lasting 4 hours, 53 minutes.

A doping test provided by Gasquet last March showed traces of cocaine. A panel of three lawyers from the CAS accepted Gasquet's claim that he inadvertently consumed cocaine by kissing a woman in a Miami club hours after withdrawing from a tournament with an injury. □

Associated Press

King ousted No. 23 Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5.

Melanie Oudin, the 18-year-old American who made a surprising run to last year's U.S. Open quarterfinals, also went out in the first round, beaten 2-6, 7-5, 7-5 by Alla Kudryavtseva of Russia. Oudin has won just one WTA Tour match since the U.S. Open.

Back on the men's side, sixth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, No. 9 Fernando Verdasco — who lost an epic five-set semifinal to Nadal here last year — No. 10 Jo-Wilfried

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FIVE QUESTIONS WITH ...ADAM STEINFELD, magician-comedian, star of the Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show



BY REBECCA SWAIN
VADNIE

What have you been working on recently?

We launched our new version of Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show at the Westin-aruba a few weeks ago, we turned a theater that's been closed for 2 years into a fun & exciting show within 10 days, now that's Magic!...the Magic Live!® show has been well received by tourists and magic leaders alike, every seat is clear sight-line to the stage, it only holds 125 seats, one of the reasons we're open everyday, the demand, has been very encouraging. I slice the beautiful girl-in-half, float her to the top of the theater, and then later in the show, float an audience in-the-air, the magic-comedy-illusion show will change every few weeks, I brought with me tons of new never-before-

seen illusions, so every live onstage performance is unique and different, expect lots of surprises.

When did you first realize you wanted to be a magician?

In elementary school, in 2nd grade, I fooled my teacher Mrs. Hooligan, in much frustration and consternation on her part, I performed a show & tell effect; using a bell that rang at any time, only I the magician could make it ring, she tried and tired, but couldn't make it work. I

also performed magic & ventriloquism at birthday parties as a youngster, I always considered it a hobby, that is until I won first place in the florida state magic convention contest. at age ten, quite an accomplishment for a kid-magician at the time, later on, studying to be a film-maker at the University of Miami, I put myself through college,

performing magic shows at events and comedy clubs, and cruiseships around the world, from Barcelona to San Juan.... if you turn your passion into your living, you can never go wrong.

How is your show different than say; David Copperfield, Lance Burton or Amazing Jonathan?

I present "magic" mixed with nonstop laughter, and world-class stage illusions, I don't take myself so seriously on stage, and I don't have a set script, most is improvised, lets just say controlled ciaos, involving interactive audience fun...plus the Magic Live!® upscale theater at the Westin only seats 125, every seat is perfect sightlines to the stage, it's more of an private personal show, than watching it from a far in a large auditorium stage, than a typical magic show.

What is your greatest career achievement?

On April 1st, in 1988 (April Fools Day), I set a guinness world record, in magic, by performing 102 magic tricks in a little more than 3 minutes, it was filmed for network television, and aired in 52 countries around the world including the australian TV show, Just for the Record, and aired as a major news story throughout the USA, it earned me the title of; the World's Most Versatile Magician, the event was sponsored by Timex, and after that bookings started to pour in.

What is this I hear about your new conspiracy novel; Houdini Lives! ? I spent two years collaborating over the internet with New England mystery writer, Al Blanchard on my story; Houdini Lives!, the novel is now available online and at www.HoudiniLives.com, it's historical fiction, set 40 years past Houdini's death in 1926, the world's greatest magician, Houdini is living as his fathers profession in miami beach, in 1966, and he knows



other celebrities of that time period from Jackie Gleason to Sinatra to Larry King, I believe this story will one day be turned into a feature film.

How do you spend your time, when you're not performing? Aruba is without a doubt the most picturesque island of all

the caribbean, as a filmmaker, I like to spent my time shooting short stories, and interviews of the people of aruba, who are always fascinating, you can see a few shorts on www.Aruba123.com, one is a short documentary titled; Aruba, almost heaven. I plan to shoot more in the future. □



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JFF President Captain Horace Burrell. – File

Captain Burrell gets FIFA involved in Haiti recovery

Audley Boyd,
Sports Editor

GRIM, frightening and heartbreaking. These are but a few, yet choice words from Captain Horace Burrell depicting the tale of woe affecting earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

The Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) president - reacting to a request by the Caribbean Football Union (CFU), CONCACAF and by extension FIFA, the global football hierarchy - visited the French-speaking Caribbean territory on a fact-finding mission on Sunday.

It wasn't pretty.

Burrell said Haiti Football Federation president, Jean Bart, confirmed that 30 members of the federation were dead. Twenty of them were crushed when its once-three-storey building crumbled in the deadly 7.0 quake that unearthed near 5 p.m. last Tuesday.

It is reported that a number of players and other officials had either died or remained unaccounted for.

Continued on Page B4

Señor Frogs starting it's year with a bang

Love Parade Fashion Show 2010 on Jan 22

ORANJESTAD - "THE LOVE IS BACK" in the midst of this carnival season. After the giving 2009 its farewell with a major 'bang', Señor Frogs is back to present its first Mega Party of the year. After deliberating which activity best suits the Aruban youth that always supports Señor Frogs, the decision was made to join two mega brands on Friday, January 22 in a "LOVE PARADE FASHION SHOW 2010".

The two mega brands joined for this fashion show are the 'Señor Frogs Aruba' brand and 'Trash by Ronchi'. The fabulous KOMA models will show-off the latest fashion trends in Señor Frogs on a spectacular stage designed especially for this party.

Continued on Page B5

In the Paseo Herencia Mall Chuckie sent Mr. Jazz to inferno and back last Saturday Night

Count Down for DJ Jean on Friday night at Confessions

PALM BEACH – DJ Chuckie packed the house last Saturday Night at Mr. Jazz to the point of no return. Chuckie mixed for a sold out crowd who enjoyed the evening to the very last second.

Continued on Pages B8 & 9



Pictured are the organizing team of Darrell Busby of Omega Marketing, Lorenzo Salas of Pola Beer, Janith Augenbero of the Occidental Resort, Jesus, "Chucho" Zenoe of Senior Frog's, Ian Molina of the Pelican's Nest, Ronchi de Cuba of Ronzio Fashions and the prize winner, and Sr. Frogs Halloween costume, Rafael Bautista.

~ Photo by Julia Renfro ~



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Good Progress Being Made Says Digicel Group CEO

Stores Re-Opening; Aid, Technical Supplies and Resources Arriving in Port au Prince



KINGSTON, JAMAICA - Good progress is being made on restoring the Digicel network with over 80 percent of cell sites now back on air, enabling customers to make and receive calls, text messages, email and BlackBerry Messenger messages.

-- As the biggest and best network in Haiti, the Digicel network has remained operational throughout and Digicel now has more cell sites on air than any other provider. Coverage in the provinces continues to be good and in Port au Prince it is improving rapidly with Haitians taking advantage of the free credit

of US\$5 each (totaling US\$10 million) that Digicel has given them. International traffic on Monday showed a 250 percent increase on normal daily levels.

-- Digicel is continuing to bring key technical people and equipment in to Haiti to ensure that the network is returned to full strength as soon as possible. In the last two days alone, six planes carrying Digicel network equipment have landed in the capital.

-- As of Monday, January 18th, Digicel stores in provincial areas mainly in the northern and southern parts of the

country have started to open -- and, importantly, Digicel stores in the metropolitan area of Port au Prince will start to re-open today (Tuesday 19th January).

-- In an effort to ensure that as many customers as possible can purchase credit, handsets and accessories like alternative energy mobile phone chargers, one of Digicel's mobile stores will be open for business from 9am until 4pm each day from tomorrow. The mobile store will be located in the airport area of Port au Prince.

-- Supplementary charging stations will be placed in the Digicel stores to ensure that customers can charge up their phone batteries and be able to avail themselves of the US\$5 free credit to stay connected with friends and family.

-- And for people across the Diaspora wishing to send credit to friends and family in Haiti, Digicel is giving Double Bubble to customers meaning that they will receive double the value of the credit that they purchase for no additional cost.

Colm Delves, Group CEO of Digicel, comments, "We are making good progress on returning our network to full strength with more and more cell sites coming back online and voice calls, text messaging, email and BlackBerry Messenger available all across the country. Some customers may experience difficulties making and receiving calls at certain times largely due to the high volume of customers taking advantage of the US\$10 million we have given them in free credit.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure our customers can stay connected with friends and family."

As the single largest investor in Haiti with a total investment of US\$300 million since its



launch in 2006, Digicel has over two million customers in Haiti and has announced a US\$5 million donation to the Haiti relief efforts. This donation will go to NGOs like Concern and Medecins sans Frontieres.

ABOUT DIGICEL GROUP

After eight years of operation, Digicel has 8.8 million customers across its Caribbean and Central American markets and is renowned for competitive rates, unbeatable coverage, superior customer care, a wide variety of products and services and state-of-the-art handsets. By offering innovative wireless services and community support, Digicel has become a leading brand in the Caribbean and has placed the region at the cutting-edge of wireless communications -- the company is also a recent entrant to the Central American and Pacific markets.

Digicel is incorporated in Bermuda and now has operations in 32 markets world-wide. Its Caribbean and Central American markets

comprise Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Turks & Caicos. The Caribbean company also has coverage in St. Martin and St. Barths. Digicel Pacific comprises Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

In total, across its 32 markets, Digicel has 10.3 million subscribers.

Digicel is the lead sponsor of Caribbean and Central American sports teams, including the West Indies Cricket Team and Special Olympics teams throughout the region. Digicel is also title sponsor of the Digicel Caribbean Championships and the Copa de Naciones Digicel, which are the Caribbean and Central American qualifiers to the CONCACAF Gold Cup.



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A festive start for Oranjestad's renovation

Plaza Daniel Leo in a starring role



ORANJESTAD - Plaza Daniel Leo in the very heart of Oranjestad played a starring role last Monday evening, when the official start of the extensive and impressive plans for the renovation of the capital took place. The festive atmosphere surrounding the event was not just because

of the excitement about the project; it was also because of the fabulous set-up that did the beautiful plaza justice. This set-up was done by Mosaic Fabulous Events of Fernando Mansur. The plaza had been transformed into an elegant area, with carpets, covered

tables, gorgeous, very artistic centerpieces, low tables and a tent for lounging. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres were prepared on the far side of the plaza, which took on a reddish hue as the sun set. The magic of the set-up was enhanced by the mellow music by Jean Paul Carascuero on saxophone, Jaws Rasmijn on percussion and Jesse MacJanet as deejay. The stunning divi divi tree centerpieces are a design of artist Luis Benjumea.



As speeches were held and the first tree of the project was symbolically planted by Prime Minister Eman, the

guests and on-lookers enjoyed the atmosphere and Fernando heaved a sigh: another job well done. □



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Aruba Wine & Dine enjoy training from Pepia Est



ORANJESTAD – For more than 2 weeks, the front of the house employees of 'Aruba Wine and Dine' are being trained by Pepia Est, a big supplier of different kind of spirits and wines. Everyone is getting a basic product knowledge of all kinds of spirits like whiskey (Chivas, Jack Daniels, JAMESON, Canadian club etc.), cognac (Courvoisier, Remy Martin etc), Vodka (Stolichnaya, Absolut Vodka etc), gin (Beefeater), rum (Mount Gay, Havana Club, Bacardi), tequila (Sauza, Tres Generaciones, Hornitos etc.), liquers (Contreau, Baileys, Jagermeister etc).

Also some basics of wine are



explained. Beside the alcoholic drinks, water is also one of the topics of the training; Saratoga Spring Water.

After a short explanation of all liquids, some sales techniques were given; and proper etiquette for the servers.



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FIFA

Continued from Page B1

"The situation down there is grim, it's frightening and it is going to take a very long time to turn things around," Captain Burrell told The Gleaner on his return to the island yesterday. "They will need the help of not only the Caribbean, but the entire world, to help them rebuild."

"You have hundreds of thousands of people milling around aimlessly, not knowing what to do, not knowing where the next meal is coming from, or where they are going to get any water; all of whom appear hopeless and very sad." He added: "All around, there were people with wounds. Hundreds of thousands are currently on the streetside with nowhere to go."

Burrell, a vice-president of the CFU, a CONCACAF executive and a FIFA disciplinary committee official, submitted a report to the

CFU and CONCACAF president Jack Warner, who is also a FIFA vice-president. It was forwarded to FIFA.

Emptiness in the land

"Words cannot describe what I have seen in Haiti," Burrell stated in the report. "It is heartbreaking. There is an emptiness in this land which must be filled soon. The island has been engulfed by a sense of hopelessness and despair. We cannot ignore this problem."

"If my report to President Warner can in any way shed some light on what is happening here, if it can encourage even one person to act, then I would have succeeded in my mission," he added.

Warner donated US\$100,000 to the relief cause. FIFA donated US\$250,000 and another of its vice-presidents, Chung Moon-Jung, pledged US\$500,000.

4

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Love Parade Fashion Show 2010 on Jan 22



Continued from Page B1

Two of the best Mexican DJ's in Trance and House music, DJ Ursula Prawn and Dr. Aujas will join this party to deliver the best excitement ever. The winner of the best Halloween costume, Rafael Bautista received his prize

during the Press conference. Rafael won a ticket to Cancun with paid accommodation in the all inclusive Riu Hotel. Fans of Señor Frogs can expect a lot in the upcoming weeks, as Señor Frogs will be celebrating its second anniversary with a fabulous



party in February. There will be lots of exciting prizes and surprises. Be tuned! Special thanks goes to all supporters and the local media that participated and contributed to our activities. We are a success because of all of you! The visiting Mexican DJ's will be touring the island this weekend, visiting several Aruban clubs and lounges.

In connection with the Love Parade party this Friday there will be an after-party on Sunday January 24th on the Pelican Pier. This event will be your perfect Sunday Chill out party. The chill starts @ 4pm with a special Happy Hour on Heineken and Bacardi drinks on the tunes of DJ Ursula Prawn, dr Aujas and our resident DJ Yeimi.

Señor Frogs, 'where the night picks-up and ends' extends a special word of thanks to the main sponsors of this event: Dos XX, Polar Beer, Red Bull, Jose Cuervo Tequila, Trash by Ronchi & Beauty Team, Thunder & Lightning, Occidental Grand and Occidental Grand Resort Aruba. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~





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HUMAN HINTS

Knowledge Of The Illusion Is Only The Illusion Of Knowledge

When someone says they're sure of something, be wary of the information, especially if they call themselves an expert. The more we think we know, the more ignorant we are. This is obnoxiously obvious in many teenagers.

To doubt everything is to know everything. When you know the world is an illusion, you doubt everything about it. If you could see how fragile this façade is, you would see how fragile our illusion of

knowledge truly is. The physical world is built on uncertainty. In physics, an idea known as the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle is a foundation of quantum theory, which describes how physical matter exists. In other words, physical matter is possible because of the Uncertainty Principle. Uncertainty allows the existence of this Physical Realm. That is how fragile the three dimensional illusion is.

Be aware of claims of certainty. If people are sure of their personal reality, they are enlightened enough to not force it onto you. If they claim to know the only truth, they are probably not enlightened enough to realize that what is true for them might not be true for you. Those who truly know, don't claim anything. Those who know, know enough to keep their mouth shut, lest they be stoned by the Masses!

We gain knowledge through our personal experience and study of this agreed-upon version of physical reality (the world). Our personal knowledge does not apply to others because each person's experience is uniquely their own and vastly different from everyone else's. Our experience of the world is unique and intimately personal, and it becomes distorted in communication with others.

Our personal view of other people is inherently wrong because we see everyone else in our own image. We think of everyone else from the context of ourselves.

We put our own experience of the world onto others. It is impossible to truly know anyone because we can never know how they experience life, how they internally interact with the world.

Don't fool yourself by thinking that you know something because you really don't know anything. The sooner you admit that you know absolutely nothing, the sooner you will become humble and enlightened. You may have theories based on your experience and studies of the agreed-upon physical reality, but if your theories are true, they are true only for you. Your interpretation of the world does not necessarily apply to others.

When someone says they're sure, doubt them. If someone says they know something, remember that their personal 'knowledge' might not apply to you. If someone says it's true, remember that it might be true for them, but it doesn't have to be true for you. Be aware of absolutes, for nothing in this dynamic,

complex world is absolute.

Until Tomorrow...


Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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PG-13	THE BLIND SIDE	daily: 4:00	late show: 9:30	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4:00	late show: 6:00	
PG	OLD DOGS	daily: 4:15	late show: 8:15	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 5:15	late show: 12:15	
R	NINJA ASSASSIN	daily: 8:00	late show: 10:15	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4:30	late show: 7:45	3D
PG	FANTASTIC MR. FOX	daily: 4:15	late show: 11:00	

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G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4:30	late show: 12:15	
PG-13	IT'S COMPLICATED	daily: 6:45	late show: 9:15	
PG-13	THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS	daily: 6:00	late show: 8:45	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4:45	late show: 8:00	3D
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Live Music & Entertainment tonight at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - As of this week our Flamenco Show will be extended with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red



Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95. For entertainment, Casa Tua Barcelona offers rhythms of salsa & bolero & Cha Cha Cha performed by a live band every Saturday Nights! El Latin Son will perform tonight!!

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!' Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly NightMagic-Comedy- Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See" 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!" Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

THE MUST-SEE SHOW - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK, Adam Steinfeld: 'MAGIC LIVE!', from Monte Carlo, Hong Kong, Orlando, Miami Beach, Biloxi, Boston, San Juan, New York, Aruba to Vegas, it's the coolest show in town, taking up where Houdini left off." MAGIC-GRANDILLUSION - COMEDY



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com



Chuckie sent Mr. Jazz to inferno and back last Saturday Night



Continued from Page B1

Chuckie's leading mixing skills and distinctive productions not only show an indispensable complement to the Dutch dance industry, the international dance-scene has also been giving him a warm welcome. Driven by ambition, enthusiasm and pure passion for music, his characteristic set makes the crowd go wild and his many productions reflect his true visionary in his craft works. Nowadays, Chuckie still continues to surprise the crowd with his mind-blowing style and his story is yet to continue...

Chuckie: The Beginning

Born and raised in Paramaribo, Clyde Narain devoted himself completely to music and had played many records from a young age. He started out by deejaying at friend-related events, but would soon be known for hyping up many clubs and events as deejay "Chuckie". He successfully proved his skills to be true and his innovative and energetic mixing skills are still making him one of the most popular artists of the moment. Crossing various genres, Chuckie has put his stamp upon the music industry and he still grows into a high mark in the international dance scene. Chuckie: The Story Continues. Already being able to look back on a glorious career, Chuckie remains driven by his future plans. His experiences and memories are indelible and stimulate his drive to climb the ladder on an international base.

As being a successful DJ, whose mixing-skills in the Netherlands is perhaps unparalleled, Clyde Narain alias Chuckie is devoted



On the eve of the restaurant's 10th anniversary

Celebrating perfection at the Amazonia Churrascaria



Palm beach – The crew at Amazonia Churrascaria is gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the authentic Brazilian concept of Rodigio Steakhouse offering continuous dining caught literal fire as a troop

of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new indoor & outdoor dining room of Amazonia Churrascaria, introducing the fresh and novel style of dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors. It was an instant success

and Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or just fantastic, much-enjoyed meals, that even vegetarians love! The restaurant gauchos continuously offer choice cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb,



to conquer the world with his characteristic style! Ambitious, fanatical and with lots of potential: Chuckie is ready to rock worldwide so keep a close eye on him!



pork & sausage, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame. The meat selections are accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing salad bar where you can keep sampling until your beg for mercy, all for an inclusive price, excluding dessert and beverages. On the dessert list the restaurant boasts Crème Brûlée, Flan, Brazilian Cheese Cake, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Apple Pie, and Papaya Cream. The restaurant features

an extensive wine list, a well stocked bar and a nice selection of Cuban cigars. Managed by Hubert Solagnier with over thirty years of Food & Beverage experience on the island, in Bonaire and in Holland, the restaurant is the 'baby' of local entrepreneurs and investors Rene Kan and Milton Berlinski. And Hubert is proud of his fantastic crew, and the tastiest food in town, as well as potent Caipirinhas served in one of the most beautifully decorated dining rooms on the island.



Rotary helps bring 'homes in a box' to Haitians

By Vivian Moreau –
Saanich News

It looks like a large Rubbermaid container. But it's really a portable home.

And with funds raised by Rotary clubs around Greater Victoria and donations across the country, 300 "shelter boxes" have landed in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

As well, three volunteers with Shelterbox, a British Rotary-driven initiative, flew into the Haitian capital Port-Au-Prince shortly after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the Caribbean country.

"We have 3,300 boxes either in Haiti or about to be delivered," said Don Ohlgren, Shelterbox Canada's Victoria-based executive director.

Boxes were stockpiled in Curacao, which allowed them

to be airlifted quickly.

A 10-person tent, a multi-fuel stove, pans, utensils, bowls and mugs, water container purification tablets, and a basic tool kit are just some of the items in each box, enough to help keep a family alive. Assembled in England at the organization's Cornwall head office, each box costs about \$1,000.

A second volunteer team is waiting in Florida with more boxes.

Two volunteers from Vancouver Island will head to Haiti some time in the next two weeks to help with distribution, Ohlgren said.

Oak Bay Rotary has supported Shelterbox Canada for five years, since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, club president Victoria Pitt said.

"Shelterbox is just about the best way that exists of supporting people in a disaster area," she added.

Later this month Oak Bay Rotary will host a whiskey-tasting event at Oak Bay Recreation Centre, with proceeds likely going toward Haiti relief efforts, Pitt said. Virgin Airlines is delivering boxes twice a day for free to Miami, from where they will be shipped to Haiti, Ohlgren said.

"Any space they have they're putting boxes in," he said, adding that France's air force has also offered to deliver a load. "The French Red Cross is also offering to put some on their flights for us."

Normally Shelterbox can't guarantee which global crisis the boxes will end up at, but



Don Ohlgren, executive director of Shelterbox Canada, shows some of the contents of the boxes. Shelterbox is sending hundreds of the boxes to Haiti to provide disaster relief.

Ohlgren said things will be different with Haiti. (in donations) is guaranteed going to Haiti."

"We anticipate doing 10,000 boxes for Haiti in the next four weeks. Anything we take To donate funds toward the charity, go to www.shelterbox.ca."

Mission To Haiti Brings Relief & A Surprise



On board a relief flight to Haiti, CBS4's Gio Benitez got a glimpse of people who aren't worried about comfort. They're not worried about first class seats. They are doctors, nurses and humanitarians transporting what Haitians desperately need.

"We can't stay in America and just watch TV. We have to get out and look for help, look for the people and help them," said Dr. Christian Sanon of Operation Rome Haiti.

They were transporting 30,000 doses of antibiotics, and bringing along doctors and surgeons from all across the country. Most of them don't know how or when they'll get back home.

CBS4's Gio Benitez asked one of the lead doctors, Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse, if she

was prepared to see Haiti after the earthquake.

"Emotionally, psychologically, no," she answered. "You cannot be prepared for this."

Dr. Pervil-Ulysse usually spends her vacation time in Haiti helping the needy.

"We do this because we feel we have to start somewhere. If we start small, we'll be able to attract more people to do the same kind of work," said Dr. Pervil-Ulysse.

The airport at Port-au-Prince resembles a military base in a warzone. It even includes the U.S. Embassy which is working out of a modest tent on the tarmac.

Many earthquake victims simply can't find good medical care and that's why supplies brought on the flight

by The Homeless Voice are desperately needed in Haiti. Benitez met one man on the tarmac who owns an airline. He was directing traffic on the tarmac because he's determined to keep helping the people of Haiti.

"Sir, when you see thousands passing away, with no assistance whatsoever and no hope, we need to assist them. Otherwise, what is humanity for?" he said.

The relief flight chartered by The Homeless Voice was scheduled to return to Miami, but those plans changed.

The U.S. government ordered the flight to take Haiti evacuees to the island of Curacao, an island just off the coast of Venezuela.

When it arrived in Curacao, those injured on board immediately got medical attention.

Benitez discussed the situation with the country's Prime Minister, Emily de Jongh-Elhage.

"This is unbelievable. This is tough for all of us. We have a lot of people here and we're missing them and we don't know where they are, so we didn't know who was coming back," the Prime Minister told Benitez.

"You can't lose hope," she said.

Ship returns to Curacao

MMA ship misses out on mission to Haiti



The T.S. Kennedy, shown at its departure Jan. 10, is back en route to Curacao after an aborted diversion to Haiti.

Hundreds of Massachusetts Maritime Academy cadets had their training cruise cut short on Tuesday, and then just as abruptly resumed, as the federal government considered and then rejected a plan to send the college's training ship to Haiti, said Adm. Richard Gurnon, president of the college.

The Training Ship Kennedy — with 599 cadets onboard — was 500 miles southeast of Miami headed to Curacao on Tuesday when a directive was handed down that the vessel would be used to bolster rescue efforts from last week's massive earthquake, Gurnon said.

By nighttime, however, the government changed course and said it would not use the school's ship after all, MMA spokesman Chris Ryan said.

"We are turning it around and resuming sea term," Ryan said.

Dr. Viana's 3 Steps to Health – Step 3, Lifestyle

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Our Biocompatible or “life friendly” protocol has three, easy to understand steps, to guide you back to health. The steps are: 1) GET the poison OUT; 2) BRING IN what the body needs and 3) BALANCE your lifestyle. If you follow these steps in the order outlined above, you most probably will enjoy health.

In Step 1, we explored what the saying; “Cleanliness is close to Godliness” is really talking about. It refers to keeping clean your God given temple, your body. To enjoy good health, you want to identify and eliminate toxics in your body. In Step 2, we discussed how clean water, quality food and dietary supplements are the materials that nourish and build a strong body.

Step 3 is to balance your life with healthy activity. The first activity for health should be rest. Most people believe rest is only the stopping of activity. This is not so. Have you ever gone to bed later then the body wanted? Exhausted, you lay awake, too tired to sleep. Traditional Chinese medicine knows that to relax, you need resting or “Yin” energy.

A good night's sleep is a fundamental natural medicine, yet, not everyone enjoys it. Nearly one out of every three people in industrialized countries experience chronic insomnia. Many other's have some difficulty falling asleep. To

help with their sleeping problems, people turn to prescription or over the counter medication. However, there are health concerns about these medications. Most “sleeping pills,” tranquilizers (Benzodiazepines) can be addictive and have other unwanted side effects.

The sleep provided by sleeping pills is not a normal sleep pattern. In a normal sleep pattern, there are several episodes of rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. It is during REM sleep that the body repairs and rejuvenates. It is also during REM sleep that dreaming takes place.

Many believe dreaming is a method where the brain works through stress and unresolved issues of the day. Because people do not experience adequate REM sleep while on sleeping pills, they will wake up not refreshed turning to coffee and other stimulants get going. A vicious cycle develops where people artificially stimulate the body to wake up and then tranquilize it to sleep.

If sleep help is needed for a short period of time, a natural alternative which does not upset the natural sleep patterns is 5HTP (5 Hydroxy tryptophan) , which helps the body produce more serotonin, the body's natural brain chemical that helps with sleep, mood and stress.

A better choice is to include the next activity necessary for health. Exercise of some form is essential for everyone. Some benefits of

exercise are:

1. Burns fat
2. Boosts endurance and energy
3. Decreases risk of osteoporosis
4. Aids digestion and elimination
5. Reduces risk of heart attack
6. Improves Immune System
7. Lower (bad) cholesterol
8. Helps manage stress

My favorite exercises are SCUBA diving, salsa and walking. Perhaps the cheapest, safest, and easiest exercise is walking briskly for twenty minutes four times a week. Gradually increase your time to an hour for the maximum benefit. In warm, seaside places, swimming or playing in the ocean has the added benefits of resistance training along with helping the lungs and brain by breathing fresh, clean air, enjoying the sunshine, a natural antidepressant, sleep regulator, antiviral and source of vitamin D. The salt-water exfoliates dead skin, dries and heals oily, itchy skin, cleanses sinuses, provided natural minerals through the skin and helps detoxify the body. Of course, be sure to protect yourself during the hottest part of the day from sunburn.

If you are not lucky enough to have all these healing benefits in one package, include some type of weight bearing and aerobic exercise several times a

week. Even those who are bedridden need to do some kind of movement from a sitting position. Whenever possible, try to get outdoors around plants and away from anything electrical, walk in a park, work in your garden then take a natural aromatherapy or sea-salt soak in a tub.

Balancing work and relaxation or vacation time is part of a healthy lifestyle. We choose to take frequent short vacations, some with our children and some without. Children need a break from their parents as we need breaks from our children. In between vacations, we enjoy working productively. If you cannot get away, create a “Time Out” regularly by scheduling a massage, your favorite hobby, or an acupuncture treatment that allows the body, mind and spirit to reset and balance.

Balancing spiritual activity and worldly pleasures is also important. One, at the exclusion of the other is not healthy. We are here to experience all of life. Are you getting the most of life's pleasures? Do you have the energy to put in a good day's work and still enjoy your friends and family? If not, perhaps it is time to evaluate your life. What would you have to change to feel healthy and enjoy life completely?

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steps, we can help guide you to the healthiest possible you. Remember, STEP 1 – CLEANSE, Get the poison out, STEP 2 – NOURISH, Bring in what the body needs and STEP 3 – Balance your LIFESTYLE. Call or write so we can help you with your 3 step program to health!

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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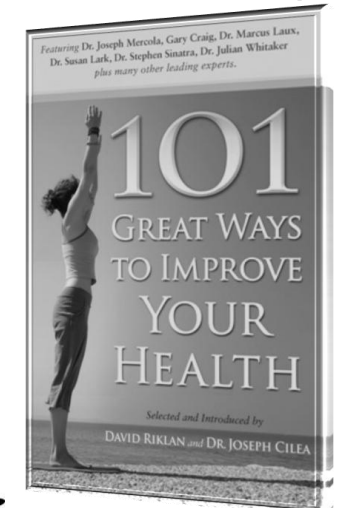
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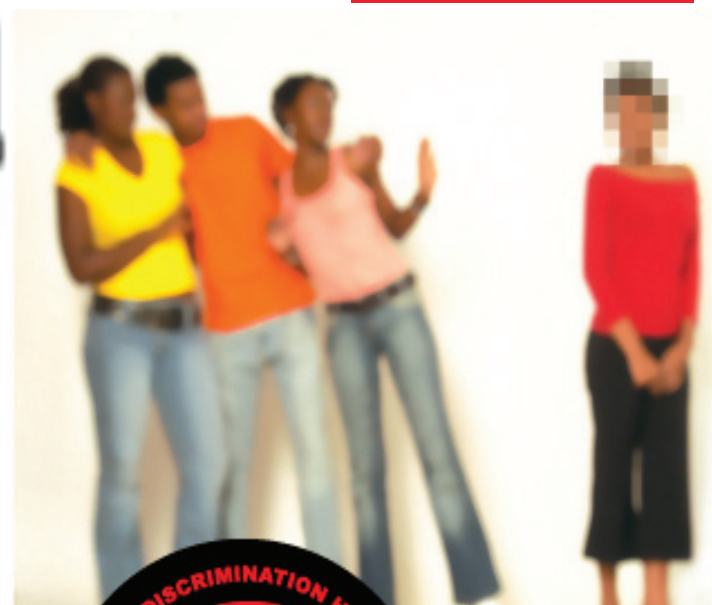
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DP, PPA support dollarisation, Duncan says stick to agreement

P H I L I P S B U R G - - Dollarisation is the way to go for country St. Maarten despite the agreement that exists for the formation of a joint central bank with Curaçao with the option to possible have a currency pegged to the US dollar, according to Democratic Party (DP) leader Sarah Wescot-Williams and People's Progressive Alliance (PPA) leader Gracita Arrindell.

Dollarisation is the best option for the island, as the US dollar is already widely used, because it will become the currency for the Dutch public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the BES islands), and because of the strong push for the dollar in Curaçao recently, the two political leaders told University of St. Martin (USM) students and other gathered Monday evening for the second political debate of the January 22 parliamentary election campaign.

Constitutional Affairs

Minister Roland Duncan, who was deputising for National Alliance (NA) leader William Marlin, disagreed. He pointed out that St. Maarten had an agreement in Curaçao for the formation of a joint central bank and this was enshrined in the Final Statement of November 2006. "An agreement made should be an agreement kept."

Talks about the establishment of a joint central bank with Curaçao are still ongoing, although Antillean Central Bank Chairman Emsley Tromp came out last year in favour of the dollar. This is a change from his previous view in favour of a currency for the new countries within the kingdom. Prominent banker Lio Capriles has also backed this option.

The push for the dollar only takes Curaçao's economy into account, not that of St. Maarten where the euro and the Eastern Caribbean dollar also play a role, Duncan said. "Our trade is mainly with the Eastern Caribbean. The dollar would make it harder for us to trade with them instead of making it easier," he said.

St. Maarten generates some NAf. 38 million annually in

fees paid by businesses and others for seignorage, an amount that would disappear in case of dollarisation, Duncan said. "This is an amount St. Maarten can ill afford to lose."

Wescot-Williams motivated her choice for the dollar. She said the Island Council had adopted three possible directions for a currency, one of which was using the dollar, and given the recent developments the scale seemed to be tipping in this direction.

Arrindell said her support for dollarisation came from almost 10 years of government toying with the idea of a St. Maarten currency, dollarisation or a joint currency with another group.

Businesspeople are on edge, she said because of an absence of information on the way forward. Using the dollar means the currency is already printed and agreements will have to be made with the United States government for use of the currency. "Using the dollar is practical," Arrindell said.

Same-sex marriage

Asked for a view on same-sex marriage/civil unions, Wescot-Williams said the pulse of the population needed to be taken when deciding on whether to legalise this. She said the constitution for country St. Maarten gave the possibility for referenda on various issues. "Change is effected by the people."

Arrindell also said the people would have to decide which direction they would like to go with this matter. She added that, unlike BES islands where the law allowing civil unions/same-sex marriage in the Netherlands would become applicable, country St. Maarten would be able to decide on its own path.

Duncan said there was nothing wrong with two humans making a contract on social, financial and other grounds. Once the door opens for same-sex marriages, can we stop there, he asked, and what about the billions of people who practice polygamy?

He said St. Maarteners were citizens of the European

Union and the EU social charter specifically stated that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Wescot-Williams, Arrindell and Duncan also fielded questions about their parties' views on integrity in government, plans for the first years of country St. Maarten, tackling truancy and the role of USM in the development of the new country, among other topics.

Monday evening's debate followed much of the same

Marlin meets with Red Cross about new senior apartments

P H I L I P S B U R G - - Commissioner in charge of Public Housing William Marlin recently met with the local Red Cross chapter and St. Maarten Housing Development Foundation (SMHDF) to discuss the construction of new apartments for senior citizens in Belvedere.

Marlin explained on Monday that the new apartments would be annexed to the existing senior apartments in Belvedere. He said Red Cross would finance the construction of some 16 new dwellings and government will make the land available in the next few weeks.

The commissioner contended that there was need for these apartments and he urged SMHDF to focus its attention on spreading out the homes for seniors into the various districts. "We should not concentrate all of our seniors in one area," he said. "We have to stimulate the construction of affordable senior apartments in all districts. If someone lived in Cole Bay all of his/her life, is now retired and is having trouble making rent in Cole Bay, it's not ideal to up and move that person to Belvedere." He continued: "So the concept of a private person developing land and constructing dwellings can also apply to Red Cross, if it has the financing and government makes the land available, so [creating] a partnership. If government has a few lots of land available in any given area and hasn't made use of it, this is the kind of land that could be allotted to such projects in the districts," he concluded. □

pattern of the Arts and Video Studio (AVS) Live Debate with the three political leaders on Sunday evening. The debate flowed, based on the issues raised, more like one for an Island Council election than for the last parliament of the Netherlands Antilles.

USM President Josianne Fleming-Artsen said the island had come a long way since the referendum in 2000 that had started the process for country status. "How far we have come. How challenging

the journey. We are in exciting times, but also very serious times."

Debate co-organiser Romney was critical of the absence of NA leader William Marlin. He said Marlin had declined the invitation to be part of the forum "without giving a definitive reason" why he could not be present to interact with the USM students. Marlin just indicated that Duncan would take his place.

The debate started half an hour late. □

Do something about it

For more than a year, and in fact up until recently, one of the most uncomfortable trips by vehicle on any of St. Maarten's major public roads tended to be a trip over what has come to be known as the Cole Bay Hill – a trip on A.J.C. Brouwer Road. The road had become wavy in parts and was like one big ribbed scrubbing board in other parts – a condition that guaranteed motorists a rather bumpy ride. Fortunately, the road has been upgraded and one can now drive to and fro over the hill in relative comfort. In fact, it is now a great ride and, unless for some inexplicable reason or the other the traffic happens to be heavily backed up on the Cole Bay side of the hill, the experience is enhanced by the fact that no longer is there much bottlenecking of traffic at the foot of the hill – thanks to the big and functional roundabout at that location.

But, oh, how we wish that some other roads were in a state of less disrepair and did not pose any danger to vehicles through damaged tyres and/or wheels and broken axles.

And, oh, how we wish that as our government proceeds with the much-vaunted ring road, it finds funds to patch the potholes that are the bane of the drivers in some neighbourhoods.

Above all, as a priority in these the closing days of the parliamentary elections campaign, oh, how we wish that as our politicians take advantage of the prime location Prins Bernhard Bridge provides for them to display their colours, they will recognise the bridge's terrible state of disrepair with its long-damaged rails and non-functioning lights, and do something about that too. □

Academy PSVE credits its new facilities for reduced violence

~ William opens new gym, care unit, library ~

EBENEZER--St. Maarten Academy has credited the opening of several new facilities at the school for a "slight," but noticeable reduction in violence among the student populace. The school has also noticed a positive change in the behaviour of some students.

The new facilities - a care unit, gym hall, library and computer room - were officially opened by Leader of Government and Education Commissioner William Marlin, who said they were essential tools for students as well as the school.

Academy PSVE has, over the years, been plagued by absenteeism, students skipping classes and violence.

Principal Solange Duncan said that since the care unit was put into operation at the start of the 2008/2009 academic year, more and more students had been using the facility for counselling, since they now have an office to visit to address their social issues. □

Gobierno Venezuela ocupa tiendas de cadena Exito

CARACAS (Reuters) - El Gobierno venezolano ocupó el martes todas las tiendas de la cadena Exito, de la francesa Casino, en el paso previo a la expropiación de la red, que es acusada de remarcar precios tras la marcada devaluación de la moneda local. El presidente, Hugo Chávez, ya había anunciado la medida el fin de semana, cuando dijo que debía esperarse a la reforma de una ley de bienes y servicios antes de proceder a la expropiación de las tiendas.

“Estamos ejecutando la medida de ocupación temporal, junto a nuestros compañeros trabajadores, asumiendo el control operativo de hipermercados Exito”, dijo a periodistas el ministro de Interior, Tareck El Aissami, desde uno de los establecimientos de la compañía en el oriente del país.

El ministro de Comercio, Eduardo Samán, dijo que estaban siendo ocupadas seis tiendas Exito en el país. El lunes, grupos de trabajadores de la firma se

apostaron en las puertas de algunas de las tiendas apoyando la medida y otros rechazándola.

La minorista francesa Casino restó importancia el lunes a la nacionalización en Venezuela y afirmó que tendría un mínimo impacto en sus ganancias al puntualizar que fueron de “casi cero”. Casino, a través de Cativen, también tiene la cadena de supermercados Cada, que está bajo fiscalización del Gobierno.

Venezuela devaluó su moneda desde 2,15 bolívares por dólar a 2,6 bolívares por dólar para bienes prioritarios como alimentos y medicinas y a 4,3 bolívares por dólar para otros sectores como comercio y automotriz. Tras la medida, Chávez ordenó a militares y autoridades fiscalizar todo tipo de tiendas en el país para evitar alzas de precios. Exito recibió una sanción de cierre temporal la semana pasada por un presunto remarcaje de precios.

La mayor minorista de Colombia, Almacenes Exito, tiene una pequeña



Consumidores fuera de una tienda Exito en Maracaibo, 18 ene 2010 REUTERS/ Isaac Urrutia

participación en las tiendas. La “revolución socialista” de Chávez ha nacionalizado desde grandes proyectos petroleros hasta gran parte de las telecomunicaciones, frigoríficos y procesadoras de café. □

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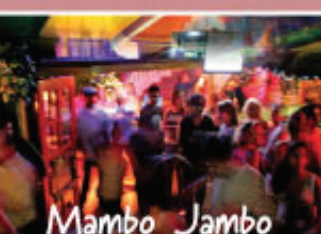
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